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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to retiree health insurance subsidy; amending s. 112.363, F.S.; revising provisions for determination of the amount of the subsidy for retirees of the defined benefit program and eligible participants of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program of the Florida Retirement System or their beneficiaries; providing a cost-of-living adjustment for the subsidy; revising the contribution paid by employers of state-administered retirement plans; providing a finding of important state interest; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to subsection (3) of section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (g) is added to subsection (8) of said section, to read:

112.363 Retiree health insurance subsidy.--

(f)1. Beginning January 1, 2006, each eligible retiree of the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System, or, if the retiree is deceased, his or her beneficiary who is

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY AMOUNT. --

receiving a monthly benefit from such retiree's account and who is a spouse or a person who meets the definition of a joint

annuitant in s. 121.021(28), shall receive a monthly retiree

health insurance subsidy payment equal to the number of years of

creditable service, as defined in s. 121.021(17), completed at

the time of retirement multiplied by \$7; however, no eligible

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retiree or beneficiary may receive a subsidy payment of more than \$210 or less than \$42. If there are multiple beneficiaries, the total payment must not be greater than the payment to which the retiree was entitled. The health insurance subsidy amount payable to any person receiving the retiree health insurance subsidy payment on January 1, 2005, shall not be reduced solely by operation of this subparagraph.

- 2. Beginning January 1, 2006, each eligible participant of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program of the Florida Retirement System who has met the requirements of this section, or, if the participant is deceased, his or her spouse who is the participant's designated beneficiary, shall receive a monthly retiree health insurance subsidy equal to the number of years of creditable service, as provided in this subparagraph, completed at the time of retirement multiplied by \$7; however, no eligible retiree or beneficiary may receive a subsidy payment of more than \$210 or less than \$42. For purposes of determining a participant's creditable service used to calculate the health insurance subsidy, a participant's years of service credit or fraction thereof shall be based on the participant's work year as defined in s. 121.021(54). Credit shall be awarded for a full work year whenever health insurance subsidy contributions have been made as required by law for each month in the participant's work year. In addition, all years of creditable service retained under the Florida Retirement System defined benefit program shall be included as creditable service for purposes of this section.
 - (g) Beginning January 1, 2007, and each January 1

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thereafter, the health insurance subsidy shall be adjusted by a cost-of-living factor. The adjusted monthly health insurance subsidy for retirees and annuitants will equal the health insurance subsidy paid in the month prior to the adjustment plus an amount equal to 3 percent of the prior month's health insurance subsidy.

- (8) CONTRIBUTIONS.--For purposes of funding the insurance subsidy provided by this section:
- (g) Beginning January 1, 2006, the employer of each member of a state-administered retirement plan shall contribute 1.56 percent of gross compensation each pay period.

Such contributions shall be submitted to the Department of Management Services and deposited in the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Trust Fund.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that a proper and legitimate state purpose is served when employees and retirees of the state and of its political subdivisions, and the dependents, survivors, and beneficiaries of such employees and retirees, are extended the basic protections afforded by governmental retirement systems that provide fair and adequate benefits that are managed, administered, and funded in an actuarially sound manner, as required by s. 14, Art. X of the State Constitution and part VII of chapter 112, Florida Statutes. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.